



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

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Falls Church City Council Proclaims May 21-27, 2006 as Hurricane and Flooding Preparedness Week

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – In advance of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season, the Falls Church City Council has proclaimed May 21-27, 2006 as Hurricane and Flooding Preparedness Week to increase awareness about hurricane hazards and emergency preparedness.

Experts predict an active 2006 hurricane season. According to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, there is a 64 percent chance that at least one Category 3, 4, or 5 hurricane will hit landfall on the East Coast June 1 through November 30. The only real defense is preparedness.

Falls Church City residents can prepare now for emergencies by signing up for Falls Church Alert at alert.fallschurchva.gov to receive emergency updates from the City via portable electronic devices and e-mail. In the event of an emergency, 1680 AM, Falls Church City's Emergency Broadcast Station, will air critical updates. Residents can also call the City's Emergency Voicemail Recording at 703-248-5200.

The City of Falls Church government's highest priority is to ensure the safety and security of its citizens from emergencies and disasters of all kinds, including hurricanes and flooding. The City and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management offer the following tips:

Have a plan:

- Determine escape routes from your home and decide on a place to meet if your family cannot return home. Designate an out-of-area person to call so all family members have a point of contact.
- Make a plan for your pets—they are not permitted in shelters.
- Document your valuables and keep records in a waterproof container.
- Post emergency numbers by phones and make sure children know when and how to call 911.
- Check your insurance policy now for hurricane and flood damage coverage. Once a hurricane watch is issued, insurance companies will not write any new policies or make adjustments to current policies.

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When a storm approaches:

- Secure all outside objects. Bring loose objects such as patio furniture, garden tools, and planters inside.
- Fill vehicle fuel tanks and generators.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting.
- Fill bathtubs and any large container with water for washing, cleaning, and flushing toilets since electric power may go out of service.

Assemble a disaster survival kit:

- Emergency supplies should be adequate to last at least 3 days per person. A 10-day supply of water, food, and medicine is recommended.
- Manual can opener.
- Fire extinguisher: dry chemical, type ABC.
- Battery-operated radio.
- Blankets and pillows.
- Clothing: rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- Pet care items.
- Toiletries: hygiene items.
- An extra set of home and car keys.

For more information, please visit www.fallschurchva.gov or call 703-248-5003 (TTY 711).

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